III. *The Caſe of a Man who was poiſon'd by eating* Monks-hood *or* Napellus, *communicated to the* Royal Society *by Mr.* Vincent Bacon, *Surgeon, F. R. S.*

ON *Monday* night laſt, being *February* the 5th, about Ten, I was called in haſt to one *John Crumpler*, a *Silk-Weaver*, in *Spittle-Fields*; when I came into the Room, I found him lying on the Bed, his Head ſupported by a By-ſtander, his Eyes and Teeth fixed, his Noſe pinched in, his Hands, Feet, and Forehead cold; and all covered with a cold Sweat, no Pulſe to be perceived, and his Breath ſo ſhort as ſcarce to be diſtinguiſhed: Enquiring into the Caſe, I was told that he had been very well all Day, and about Eight had eaten a very hearty Supper of Pork, and a Sallad dreſt with Oil and Vinegar; and though he was very merry at his Meal, he began immediately after to find an Indiſpoſition: I asked of what the Sallad was compoſed? and was anſwered, that there were in it nothing but common Sallad Herbs, all which they bought at a Stall in the Market, except ſome Celery, which they had picked out of their own Garden. Suſpecting that he had been eating ſome poiſonous Herb, I asked if he found in the beginning of the Diſorder any inclination to Vomit? They ſaid no, but that when he found his Illneſs come upon him with great Violence, he believed himſelf to be poiſoned, and forthwith drank a large quantity of Oil, not leſs than a Pint in all, and after that he loaded his Stomach with Carduus-Tea 'till he vomited,

ed; and though he threw up the greateſt Part of his Supper, yet the Symptoms ſtill encreaſed, which made them ſend for me; but before I could get to him, things were come to the Extremity above deſcribed. Having nothing at hand but a Tea ſpoonful or two of Spirit of *Hartſhorn*, I forced open his Teeth with the Handle of a Spoon, and as his Head was reclined, I poured the Spirit into his Mouth, which a little rouſed him, and firſt ſet him a Coughing, and next a Vomiting; I took the Advantage of the little Senſe that was returned, and continued plying him with Carduus-Tea 'till he had vomited ſeveral times more, but I could not hinder his Swooning often between the Times of reaching, though I gave him after each forty or fifty Drops of *Sal Volatile & Tinctur. Croc. aa. p. æ* (which I had ſent for) in a Glaſs of Wine; he at length began to find a Working downwards, as he afterwards expreſſed himſelf, which was followed by a Stool; after which he vomited two or three times more, and then ſaid his Head was ſo heavy, and his Strength and Spirits ſo exhauſted, though his Stomach and Bowels were much eaſier, that he muſt needs lie down: His Pulſe was then a little returned, though very much interrupted and irregular, ſometimes beating two or three Strokes very quick together, and then making a Stop of as long or a longer Time than the preceeding Strokes altogether took up. Having obſerved that what he had laſt vomited was little more than the pure Carduus-Tea, I then gave him a Draught made of *Aq. Epidem. Ther. Androm. Conf. Alkerme.* &c. and gave Orders to make him ſome Sack-whey to drink between whiles, ſometimes alone, and in caſe of great Faintneſs with ſome of the above-named

named Drops. It being near One o' Clock, I left him, and calling to ſee him on *Tueſday* in the Forenoon, found him much amended: He had lain awake, tho' ſtill, an Hour or two after I left him, but being very cold and chilly, had a great deal of Covering laid on him, and then found a kindly Warmth come over his Limbs, which was ſucceeded by a moderate Sweat, and then a quiet Sleep of four or five Hours, from which he awaked very much refreſhed; and when I was there, was capable of anſwering the Queſtions I asked him, I mean with regard to Strength; for his Senſes had never failed him but during the Swoonings. I wanted to ſee ſome of the Sallad, but was told that they had eaten all that they picked, and the reſt was thrown upon the Fire, ſo that nothing could be ſeen but the Celery, which being the Produce of their own Garden, the Boy who gathered it the Evening before, was ordered to fetch ſome more of the ſame; he preſently brought a Specimen, which I took to be the common *Monks-hood* of our Gardens, called by *Moriſon* in his *Prælud. Botan. Aconitum Spicâ Florum pyramidali*. But that this Company may be more certain, I have brought a Specimen of the Plant taken from the ſame Place this Morning, which the Boy ſays is of the ſame Kind which he gathered before, and the Patient upon biting it, declares to have the ſame Taſte which he perceived on *Monday*. But it may be obſerved, that it was not then ſo much ſhot up into Leaves as it is now: I deſired him to give me an exact account of what Alterations he found in himſelf after the eating it, and how they came on: He ſaid the firſt Symptom was a Senſation of a tingling Heat, which did not only affect his Tongue, but his

his Jaws, ſo that the Teeth ſeemed looſe; and his Cheeks were ſo much irritated, that the People about him, nay even his Looking-Glaſs could ſcarce perſuade him but that his Face was ſwelled to twice its proper size; this tingling Senſation ſpread it ſelf farther and farther, 'till it had taken hold of his whole Body, eſpecially the Extremities; he had an Unſteadineſs in the Joints, eſpecially of the Knees and Ancles; with Twitchings upon the Tendons ſo that he could ſcarce walk a-croſs the Room, and he thought that in all his Limbs he felt a ſenſible Stop or Interruption in the Circulation of his Blood, and that from the Wriſts to the Fingers ends, and from the Ancles to the Toes there was no Circulation at all; but he had no Sickneſs or Diſpoſition to Vomit 'till he took the Oil, &c. Afterwards his Head grew giddy, and his Eyes miſty and wandring, next a kind of humming or hiſſing Noiſe ſeemed continually to ſound in his Ears, which was followed by the Syncopes above recited.

There ſupped with him two Women the ſame Night; one of them happened to have a diſlike to Celery, and therefore laid a-ſide all that ſhe took for ſuch, the other having before been out of order, and was not then perfectly recovered, eat but ſparingly, but took this ſuppoſed Celery along with the other Herbs; and felt, and complained of all the ſame Symptoms, but in a leſs Degree than the Man had done. She would not be prevailed on to Vomit, but only took the Cordial-Draught above deſcribed. I ſaw them both this Morning, the Man is quite well, but the Woman is ſtill out of order.

They

They ſay that there was not put into the whole Sallad, more than what grows upon one of theſe Roots.

Feb. 8th, 1732.

IV. *Deſcriptio* LUMINUM BOREALIUM *Vitembergæ Anno* CIↃ IↃCC XXXII. *conſpectorum. Auctore* Joh. Frider. Weidlero *LL. D. Matheſ. Profeſſ. Primar. Vitemberg. R. S. S.*

ANNO 1732, die 18 Febr. St. V. circa horam IX veſpertinam ſereno cœlo aurora borealis enituit. Nimirum ſub ſeptemtrionibus arcus ater 20 gradibus parte ſui media elevatus hora IX conſpectus eſt, cum paulo ante eadem veſpera cœlum ibidem ſerenum fuiſſet notatum. Imminens atro illi arcui cœli regio candida erat, atque ex hac ſubinde erumpebant ſolitæ luminis borei radiationes, ſive pyramides luminoſæ, tum etiam vapores candidi pertenues, qui inſtar nubecularum celeri motu verſus verticem ferebantur.

Hora x aliquamdiu ceſſare motus materiæ luminoſæ videbatur; mox tamen vapores albi undarum ſpecie iterum ex alba illa cœli regione prodibant: imago autem tentorii prope verticem viſa non fuit.

Hora x. min. 30. alba arcus caliginoſi faſcia dilatabatur, ſed vapores lucidi inde parciùs exibant.

Pyramides lucidæ utrimque prope Septentrionis cardinem enaſcebantur. Vapores vero fluctuantes verſus occaſum erant frequentiores. Aer perpetuo tranquillus erat.